

September 1, 2006—Updated Sept. 4, 2006

TO: MPO/RTPO/DOT Coordinating Committee Members:

This questionnaire is part of the Joint Transportation Committee's evaluation of the STP Enhancement Program. Thanks to those coordinating committee members who had suggestions for improving the questions. Also, because of some ambiguity about the initial questionnaire, some coordinating committee members simply answered the questions. I appreciate the candor and thought that went into those responses. For those that answered the questions, an additional response is welcome, but not necessary.

Following are the refined questions, to which your responses are solicited. A response by noon September 12th would be helpful, but please, no later than Friday, September 15th.

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Joint Transportation Committee
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Joint Transportation Committee Questionnaire STP Enhancement Program:

1. What are your organization's goals for the Enhancement Program grants?
2. How do you measure your organization's success for the Transportation Enhancement Program?
3. The Statewide Enhancement Advisory Committee has representatives from a broad range of interests—bicycle, pedestrian, trails, historic preservation, tribes, and local elected officials. Does your MPO/RTPO advisory committee/process utilize representation that is similar in make up with the Statewide Committee, or is its make-up constituted on a different basis?

If not, how do you take into account the various eligible categories?

4. Describe the process you use to inform local jurisdictions and interest groups of the TE program?
5. Is there diversity across the twelve categories in the local projects proposed?
6. What can be done to encourage that diversity, or is that diversity not as an important consideration, relative to other regional priorities and goals?
7. What process do you use to weight or score projects in eligible categories and what criteria do you use to score project?
8. How well do you think the current Enhancement Program process is working?

How would you improve it?

9. How should Washington State measure success for the Enhancement Program?
10. For a category of projects that are a state priority, how should the state influence additional funds to that category?

Name of MPO/RTPO:

Person responding to Questionnaire/contact person for Enhancement Program, with email and contact telephone number:

Please respond by noon, September 12th, if possible. Deadline for responses is Sept. 15th.
Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

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JTC Federal STP—Enhancement Grants Evaluation

Update: August 23, 2006 JTC meeting

AUTHORIZATION:

The Supplemental Transportation Budget directed the JTC to “conduct an evaluation of the Department of Transportation Surface Transportation Program Enhancement Grant Program” and required the evaluation to include:

- information about the categories of projects submitted for consideration;
- a review of the allocation of funds awarded across categories of eligible activities;
- a review of criteria used to score projects; and
- a finding by the committee whether certain categories of projects are disproportionately funded or unfunded.

Since no specific appropriation was provided, the Committee directed that the evaluation be done by JTC and House and Senate Transportation Committee staff.

STATUS OF EVALUATION:

- JTC staff has begun to collect and review data on past STP Enhancement distributions. Staff will summarize the methodology for, and results of, distributing STP Enhancement Funds under ISTEA, TEA-21, and three years of SAFETEA-LU.
- Staff will evaluate MPO/RTPO approaches to developing priorities for projects including criteria for scoring projects. (Starting);
- JTC staff has begun to collect data on other state’s methodologies for distributing STP Enhancement Funds. (Currently underway.)
- Transportation Committee Staff will brief the JTC during the course of the study, and comments from others will be solicited.
- Preliminary report is due by November 27, 2006; final report, January 2, 2007.